
CHF International/Afghanistan Transitional Urban Support Program (TUSP) Quarterly Performance Report

Cooperative Agreement #: DFD-G-00-04-00019-00
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1. SUMMARY

The Activities of the Transitional Urban Support Program (TUSP) are ongoing. We are currently working on a no cost extension through August 15th to reach the following project targets:

- Completing the distribution of 6500 Shelter Improvement Support (SIS) packages;
- Completing the distribution of 2500 Shelter Repair Packages (SR); and
- Completing the distribution of 1000 Transitional Shelter (TS) Packages, including monitoring the construction and verification of the occupancy rate.

2. PROGRESS

2.1 Survey and Selection of Beneficiaries

More than 9000 beneficiaries were surveyed and their data processed in the first phase. The survey data of that phase showed a greater need for SIS packages and a lower than estimated need for both SR and TS Packages. Based on those results CHF proposed to reallocate the savings on the SIS packages costs and the unspent funds on both SR and TS packages funds to cover the cost of additional SIS packages. An approval was granted to spend savings on SIS packages costs to increase the number of packages and cover an additional 3000 beneficiary families.

Decision was taken to start the survey of District 3 to identify beneficiary families qualifying for SR packages and to resurvey District 7 to identify beneficiary families qualifying for both SR and TS packages. Several reasons influenced this decision which are the:

- Importance of maintaining focus on the provision of transitional shelter assistance, with increased community stabilization and economic impact.
- Mobility of the population in this area: families moving out from their rented shelters or IDPs returning back to their land of origin with the improvement of the weather conditions and most probably the improvement of the security and the socio-economic conditions in their homeland.
- Increase in the number of returnees from both Iran and Pakistan to District 7 who are in need for shelter assistance.

The table below shows a comparison of targets achieved during the first phase survey and the targets reached up to date in the current ongoing survey.

Number of targeted beneficiaries, per project proposal	Number of qualified beneficiaries, per survey	Transitional Shelter (TS)				Shelter Repair				SIS			
		Proposed		Survey		Proposed		Survey		Proposed		Survey	
		#	% of target	#	% of target	#	% of target	#	% of target	#	% of target	#	% of target
7,000	8,279	1,000	14.2%	504	6.1%	2,500	35.8%	1,030	12.44%	3,500	50%	6,628	80.1%
10000 *		1,000	10%	665	6.65%	2,500	25%	1639*	16.39%	6500	65%	6,628	80.1%

* After the increase of the number of SIS packages

* 230 beneficiaries of this number are absent. Refer to (2.2 ii.)

Verification of selected beneficiaries

100% of the beneficiaries selected for TS support and 60% of the beneficiaries selected for SR were verified. Persons who are found not qualified are not issued an assistance coupon.

Selected beneficiaries are verified by checking that their current socio-economic condition and their level of vulnerability meet our originally set selection criteria.

2.2 Package distribution

The current status packages' distribution is detailed in the following:

i. SIS Packages

92.45% of the distribution of 6500 SIS packages, 3000 more than the initial target has been completed. The 3000 extra packages were procured from the savings on the SIS packages contract. Those savings were the result of changing the contents of the packages to address the seasonal needs of the beneficiary families at the time of the distribution and the competitive bidding process that CHF followed. The initial packages were tailored to address the population needs during the winter season. These packages included coals, a stove, blankets and plastic sheeting. The new packages addressed the needs of an Afghan family all the year through. They consisted of a gas burner, a pressure cooker, 4 blankets, 2 quilts, plastic sheets, mosquito screens, basic tools (a hammer, a saw, nails) and water jerry cans. The estimate of the original package in the proposal was 114 USD while the cost of the new package was 49.6 USD. Beneficiaries were content with these packages. No sign of SIS packages being sold in the market was found during CHF's staff survey of the bazaars close to district 7.

ii. Shelter Repair Packages

One-thousand six-hundred and thirty-nine (1,639) beneficiary families or 65.5% of the target has been achieved through end of June in both Districts 7 & 3. Distribution of packages and selection of beneficiaries is still ongoing. Two-hundred and thirty (230) beneficiary families selected from the first stage of the survey for shelter repair packages have relocated. Most of these families, who are mainly IDPs, were either living with host families or paying rent. This mobility made it difficult for CHF staff to track those families since we were unable to know if they moved within district 7 or they moved out of the district. The second phase of the survey of district 7 does not reflect a great need for this package. The survey of District 3 is ongoing where the selection process was done on the spot to avoid the kind of

problems encountered in District 7. Though some evidence was found of re-sale and/or swapping of doors and windows in local bazaars, monitoring has shown consistent implementation of the interventions according to proposed usage.

iii. Transitional Shelter Packages

The initial survey done in early spring did not reflect the real need for shelter assistance in the District, due to elimination of beneficiaries not holding current title to their property. Many of the surveyed families, although highly qualified in terms of vulnerability, were informal settlers. Others have lost their documents during their displacements. In cooperation with the District Mayor and neighborhood Wakils, a new procedure has been developed and implemented to recognize informal property rights of beneficiary families. Prior to being considered for assistance, the beneficiary family must obtain formal certification from both the District Mayor and the neighborhood Wakil to the effect that the property belongs to the family through right of tenure through family occupation of the plot for an extended period (greater than ten years) of time.¹

In addition, the new selection used the Sphere Standards as a reference as to whether a family qualifies for an additional shelter space or not. Two factors were considered: the number of square meters per person (3.5m²) and gender segregation of sleeping spaces. The standard package provided per family covered 24 m². The package was designed taking into consideration earthquake resistance. Around 87% of the families assisted qualify for Category B which means they had their walls standing and had different layouts. Many of the families were able to cover two rooms with the materials provided to them by CHF.

From the beginning of June 2004, many refugee families started returning from Pakistan and Iran. As a consequence the need for transitional shelter increased. The flow of refugees is expected to increase further in the coming few months due to the deteriorating security condition at the Pakistani- Afghan border which is not only forcing refugees to return but IDPs living near the conflict areas to move to the Central region mainly Kabul. The Iranian government has also stopped renewing visas for Afghans refugees in a move to push them to return.

By the end of July, 100% of the beneficiary families' number target will be reached. Construction of shelters is ongoing. The shelter completion rate through June 30th is 18.90%, out of which 7.80% are currently occupied, with 65.5 % under construction. The completion rate through August 15th is expected to be 65% with an occupancy percentage of 70% of the completed shelters. The exact number of persons living in each shelter will be documented in the final project report.

Although the target number of beneficiaries will be reached by August 15th, not all the last stage of transitional shelter packages will be completely disbursed by that date. The transitional shelter packages are distributed in stages: Category A, which are shelters starting from foundations, in three stages; Category B, which are shelters starting from lintel level, in two stages. The distribution of materials of each stage depends on the beneficiaries' completion of a construction stage which is verified in the field by CHF shelter construction monitoring teams. It is interesting to note that the majority of the beneficiaries are working on the construction of their shelters with varying speeds. Only 2 beneficiaries decided not to construct their shelter after receiving the materials and were asked to return the materials back. CHF monitoring teams together with the Wakils in the districts are working hard in motivating the beneficiaries to complete their shelters before the 15th of August. A 50 USD as a contribution for the labor cost will be distributed to each beneficiary who has completed and occupied his/her shelter.

¹ This method is also used by UNHCR as a property ownership proof.

2.3 Procurement

Procurement of all the packages for SIS and Transitional Shelter is completed. Only 72% of the shelter repair packages were procured based on the estimated number of beneficiary families qualified for this category. The materials procured were mainly from local suppliers. 60% of the cost of the SIS packages and 90% of the cost SR and TS packages went to locally produced items. The costs of packages are as follows:

	Price per package as estimated in proposal	Actual Price	Savings per package	Number of Packages	Total Cost	Proposed Budget	Total Savings on Supply Contracts
SIS	\$114.00	\$49.50	\$64.50	6,500	\$321,750	\$408,656	\$86,906
SR	\$165.00	\$78.00	\$87.00	1,850	\$144,300	\$401,800	\$257,500
TS	\$479.00	\$510.00	-\$31.00	1,000	\$520,000*	\$607,950	\$97,950
TOTAL					\$986,050	\$1,418,406	\$432,356

** 10,000 USD is added to this figure to cover the cost of additional shelter materials for walls and foundations provided to extremely vulnerable cases.*

2.4 Staffing

Fifteen more new staff members were recruited for the positions of Construction Monitors. The reason behind increasing the number of construction monitors was the large area of project coverage, the ongoing survey for Transitional Shelter and Shelter Repair Assistance and the need to closely monitor and push the speed of the construction process. The new staff attended two workshops: one on beneficiary selection criteria and how to conduct a survey and another on construction of earthquake proof mud shelters and construction monitoring.

2.5 Coordination

The CHF-TUSP team continues to coordinate with different area agencies by attending the monthly shelter coordination meeting held by UNHCR and the Kabul Shelter coordination meeting held jointly by UNHabitat and the municipality of Kabul. Information on areas of operations, shelter needs and future shelter construction plans are shared in these meetings. CHF staff also attends the joint District Governor-Wakils weekly meetings in Districts 7 and 3 during which issues concerning the local communities are discussed. Since CHF is assisting many returnee families, CHF is compiling a list of these families to hand in to both UNHCR and MoRR at the end of the project.

2.6 Economic Impact

The amount of USD injected to the local economy by TUSP project is: **1,511,530** compared to **1,350,000** estimated in the original TUSP project proposal.

Money injected to the local market

			Notes
1	Packages	\$986,050	
2	CHF National Staff Salaries	\$160,000	
3	Contracted labor by beneficiaries for Shelter Repair	\$300,000	This figure is based on the salary of one skilled labor 11 USD/day, 3 unskilled labors 5 USD/day multiplied by fourteen. This money is paid by the beneficiary to his/her labor. On average a house needs 1 skilled labor and 3 unskilled labors for 14 days.
4	Contracted labor by beneficiaries for Transitional Shelter Construction	\$40,480	The figure is based on one Skilled Labor for 2 days. 11USD x 2 days x 1840 SR
5	Material transportation paid by beneficiaries	\$25,000	
TOTAL		1,511,530	

Number of person days

			Notes
1	Number of person days for labor working on TS and SR	60,000	
2	Number of person days for CHF employees and contracted labor	10,000	
3	Number of person days for labor working in producing items for suppliers	5,500	Carpenters for doors and windows, brick makers, quilts weavers... and transportation
TOTAL		75,500 person days	

3. CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

- Time is still the major challenge facing the TUSP project. SIS packages and the SR kits distribution will be completed by mid August. Transitional Shelter will require more time for monitoring the construction process, assessing the economic impact and determining the number of persons who have benefited from the project.
- Difficulty to obtain exact figures and numbers of population movement in and out of district 7 due to the absence of proper tracking systems. Returnee families are registered by Province name not by district name. As for IDPs, they are only registered if they are living in camps, which is not the case in district 7 where they are integrated within the population.
- High demand for shelter assistance in light of the increasing influx of returnees and the decrease in the numbers of shelter assistance provided by humanitarian agencies.